



State Representative John E. Piscopo

Dear Friends,

The 2006 legislative session was a beneficial one for the 76th District.

Annual state grant totals (which include state funding for town road maintenance and aid to local schools) for Burlington, Harwinton, Litchfield and Thomaston are up from last year.

State grants benefiting the 76th District also were approved, including:

- A **\$120,000 grant** to reconstruct the Prospect Street Bridge in Burlington, which was virtually destroyed during last fall's flooding.
- A **\$332,000 grant** to help finance the extension of a water main in Harwinton to a senior housing complex, town hall and the library.
- **Two grants totaling \$587,353** to help finance construction of the community center at the Northfield Volunteer Fire Department's new firehouse.
- A **\$200,040 grant** to help pay for the replacement of sidewalks along several streets in Thomaston.
- A **\$70,000 grant** that will help pay for a playground accessible to children with disabilities at the Black Rock Elementary School in Thomaston.

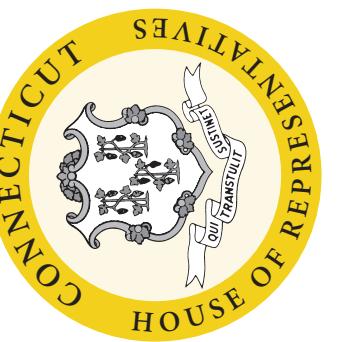
Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you at our state legislature in Hartford.

Sincerely,



Rep. Piscopo meets with Olivia Marotta, his legislative intern for the 2006 General Assembly session, after she was presented with a citation recognizing her for participating in the internship program. Miss Marotta, of New Britain, graduated from Tunxis Community College this spring.

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State Representative

JOHN E. PISCOPO

Proudly Serving the 76th District

Burlington • Harwinton • Litchfield • Thomaston



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2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



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Representative Piscopo researches a bill on his computer during a recess on the floor of the State House during the 2006 legislative session.

Protecting Your Interests

During the 2006 session, as always, I worked on behalf of the 76th District's families, children, seniors and taxpayers. I supported measures to spur economic growth, create jobs, preserve the environment, improve traffic safety, and protect consumers.

Creating More Jobs

Connecticut still lags behind most other states in economic growth and job creation. To help rectify that situation, I cosponsored a law that exempts machinery and equipment from the property tax to help our struggling manufacturers, and provides tax credits to encourage film production, which will help create thousands of new jobs in our state.

Fostering Technological Innovation

I supported legislation to promote research in the growing field of nanotechnology, a branch of engineering that deals with extremely small electronic circuits and mechanical devices designed and manufactured at the molecular level.

Nurturing Microbusinesses and New Companies

Under an act I cosponsored, the state will provide matching financial assistance for micro-businesses that receive funding through two federal programs, and venture capital for newly-established or expanding businesses that are in the early stages of developing new products and processes.

Office of the Business Advocate

An Office of the Business Advocate was established under a law I cosponsored. The office will contact micro and small businesses that could benefit from business assistance programs, provide information about the programs, and help businesses access them.

Encouraging Math and Science Proficiency

I cosponsored legislation that creates three pilot programs for certain teenage students to help them attain proficiency in mathematics and science and to prepare them for future employment with technology-based companies in Connecticut.

Recruiting the Best and the Brightest

I cosponsored an act that establishes a program to recruit eminent faculty and their research staff to the University of Connecticut and creates grant programs to repay student loans for engineers and people who hold specific doctoral degrees.

Cleaning Up 'Brownfields'

I cosponsored a law creating an Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development that will establish a program to designate four towns where contaminated properties hinder economic development and fund remediation projects that would significantly benefit those communities.

Bantam Lake Designated Heritage Lake

I cosponsored an act designating Bantam Lake in Litchfield and Morris as a heritage lake, making it eligible for a program that helps preserve and enhance the historic, cultural, recreational, economic, scenic, public health, and environmental value of state lakes.

Litchfield Hills Water Authority

I cosponsored a law creating a Litchfield Hills Regional Water Authority to oversee the operation of a new Litchfield Hills Regional Water District. The act also permits the State Bond Commission to insure up to \$5 million in bonds issued by the Authority.

Supporting Farm Wineries

To make it easier for Connecticut farmers to operate wineries, I cosponsored a new law that relaxed a requirement that at least 25 percent of the fruit used to make their wines be grown on the farm winery's permitted premises.

Protecting Long Island Sound

I cosponsored a law to encourage municipal wastewater treatment plants and private sector entities to reduce the amount of nitrogen they discharge into Long Island Sound.

Property Tax Relief for Seniors

Municipalities will be allowed to freeze property taxes for certain elderly persons under a law I supported. To be eligible for the benefit, homeowners or their spouses must be age 70 or older; have lived in the state for at least one year and meet the same income limits that apply to the existing state-reimbursed "circuit breaker" program.



Representative Piscopo confers with state Representative Ruth C. Fahrbach, R-Windsor, about bills of importance to both legislators' districts prior to a vote on the measures on the State House floor.



Representative Piscopo discusses an upcoming vote on the floor of the State House with state Representative Sean Williams, R-Watertown.

Breast Cancer Screening

I voted for a law to require insurers to provide added coverage for breast cancer screening if a woman is considered to be at increased risk for breast cancer because of family history, her prior breast cancer history or other indications determined by her physician.

Testing for Children with Cancer

I voted for an act requiring health insurers and the HUSKY Plan to cover testing ordered by physicians for children with cancer to assess the extent to which chemotherapy or radiation treatment has caused cognitive or developmental problems.

Supporting National Guard Members

I voted for a law that gives National Guard members ordered into active state service (such as riot control and disaster response) the more extensive civil and employment protections enjoyed by federal armed service members.

Helping Disabled Veterans

Veterans' disability payments will be excluded in the calculation of income to determine eligibility for income-based property tax exemptions under a law I supported.

Honoring Our War Dead

I voted for an act that requires both the state and national flags to be flown at half-staff (whenever the governor orders the state flag to be flown at half-staff) for the same amount of time to honor members of the armed services who die in the line of duty.

State Budget

The 2006-07 budget increases the tax credit property owners can take to reduce their state income tax liability to \$500 for the 2006 tax year, repeals the 15 percent corporate income tax surcharge and makes prudent use of the state surplus. I supported the budget because it is fiscally responsible and will help stimulate economic growth and create jobs.